(b) if so, the action taken to control the spread of this dreadful disease ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Minister for Health).—

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to clause (a) above.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE to Smt. Sheila Irani Grant of.

MADAM SPEAKER.— I have received a letter from Smt. Sheila Irani, Member, Legislative Assembly, requesting for leave of absence from attending the current sittings of the House as she will be going abroad.

It is the pleasure of the Assembly that permission be granted to Smt. Sheila Irani for remaining absent from the current sittings of the House ?

HON'BLE MEMBERS.— Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER.— Permission to remain absent is granted.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) Ref : the need to alleviate the hardship caused to the people due to long queues before the Janatha Bazaar and other Co-operative Societies for getting 5 Kgs. of rice.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN (Malleswara).— Madam, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies to the need to alleviate the hardship caused to the people due to long queues before the Janatha Bazaar and other Co-operative Societies for getting 5 Kgs. of rice.

Smt. E. E. VAZ (Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies).–I beg to state as follows :

A stock of 2,400 quintals of rice collected by levy on permit, was required to be distributed to the general public. As there are nearly 800 Fair Price Shops in Bangalore, it was obviously not practicable to distribute the small quantity of 2,400 quintals of rice through so many Fair Price Shops. Therefore it was decided to distribute it